



PUBLIC NOTICE

NASA Announces Completion of Soil Cleanup Activities At Jet Propulsion Laboratory

With the removal of 260 pounds of a class of chemicals called volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and the acceptance of a final Remedial Action Report by California and federal regulatory agencies, NASA has now officially completed a major soil cleanup project at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The chemicals originated from long-discontinued liquid and solid waste disposal practices during the 1940s and 1950s when wastes from JPL laboratory drains and sinks were disposed of in brick-lined underground seepage pits – a waste management practice that was accepted and common at the time.

NASA employed a process called soil vapor extraction (SVE) to remove 230 pounds of carbon tetrachloride and 30 pounds of trichloroethylene (TCE) from the dry soil directly beneath JPL. By removing this source of chemicals, the process also eliminated further chemical movement into the aquifer hundreds of feet below the ground surface.

Cleanup of groundwater also continues both on and off the JPL site. Since January 2005, NASA has also operated an on-site treatment plant that has removed an additional 620 pounds of chemicals from groundwater beneath JPL – 600 pounds of perchlorate and 20 pounds of VOCs through the end of 2006 – greatly reducing the concentrations of those chemicals in the groundwater. That plant is undergoing an expansion that will double its water treatment rate by summer of this year.

Since July 2004, NASA has also funded a groundwater treatment plant in Altadena near two Lincoln Avenue Water Company drinking water wells, and NASA will fund a major groundwater treatment plant in Northwest Pasadena near four closed Pasadena Water & Power drinking water wells.

The Remedial Action Report on the soil cleanup project and additional information about the comprehensive NASA groundwater cleanup project at JPL is available at the project’s Web site at <http://JPLwater.nasa.gov> or by requesting a copy of it from Merrilee Fellows at mfellows@nasa.gov or by mail to the attention of:

Ms. Merrilee Fellows
NASA Manager for Community Involvement
NASA Management Office
180-801 Jet Propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, CA 91109
Phone (818) 393-0754

The Remedial Action Report on the soil cleanup project and additional information also may be found at any of the NASA public information repositories located at the:

Pasadena Central Library
285 E. Walnut St.
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 744-4052

Altadena Public Library
600 E. Mariposa St.
Altadena, CA 91001
(626) 798-0833

La Cañada Flintridge Public Library
4545 Oakwood Ave.
La Cañada Flintridge, CA 91011
(818) 790-3330